

Message Text

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65

ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /040 W

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O 062350Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2173

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FOR SCA LAWRENCE AND ARA DREYFUSS FROM CONGEN

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC MX

SUBJECT NY POST STORY ON PRISONER TREATMENT AND ESCAPES

REF SMITH-LAWRENCE TELCON

1. NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT ALLEN RIDING CALLED CONGEN INQUIRING REPORTED JAN. 6 NY POST STORY OUT OF LOS ANGELES STATING THAT BECAUSE OF ABORTED PROTEST FROM KISSINGER TO RABASA OVER PRISONER TREATMENT, AMERICAN PRISONERS AT LECUMBERRI HAD BEEN HARSHLY TREATED WITH RESULT THATTHREE ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE, TWO OF WHOM WERE SHOT IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS.

2. AS WE ADVISED RIDING, EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO INDICATIONS OF CHANGE IN PRISONER TREATMENT AT LECUMBERRI NOR OF ANY ESCPAE ATTEMPTS THERE OTHER THAN SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT OF JAMES WORKER. AS DEPT AWARE, WORKER ESCAPE APPARENTLY CAREFULLY PLANNED OVER AT LEAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND INCLUDED PERIODIC CONTRIBUTIONSOFAIR BY HIS VISITING FIANCEE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WIG HE USED IN ESCAPE ON CONNECTION WITH HIS MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, STORY APPEARS TO BE WITHOUT FOUNDATION OR PERHAPS A CONFUSION OF OTHER ATTEMPTS AT PIEDRAS NEGARS AND ACAPULCO. IN PIEDRAS NEGARS ATTEMPT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN WHICH TWO AMERICANS SUCCEEDED, ONE AMERICAN, FLOYD

SEHION, WAS SHOT IN HEAD AND RECAPTURED. IN CASE OF
ACAPULCO ATTEMPT OF ROBERT SMITH, SMITH AND HIS WIFE
ALLEGED HE INCURRED HEAD WOUND BY BULLET GRAZE BUT CONSULAR
OFFICER WHO VISITED HIM UNABLE TO SAY WITH ANY CERTAINTY
WHAT THE CAUSE OF THE HEAD WOUND WAS. PRISON AUTHORITIES
CLAIM IT WAS CAUSED BY PISTOL BUTT USED IN COURSE OF
SUBDUING SMITH.
JOVA

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